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II. DEPARTMENT OF PHILANTHROPY, CHARITIES AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Board of Control of State Institutions of Iowa.¹—Probably no legislation of recent years in Iowa has gained more in favor since its enactment than the law creating the Board of Control of State Institutions and the amendments thereto. The original law gave the board control of the penitentiaries, hospitals for the insane, institution for feeble-minded children, orphans' home, soldiers' home, industrial schools, college for the blind, school for the deaf, and the industrial home for the blind (adults), fourteen in all, and also provided that the three State educational institutions should be inspected as to their appropriation expenditures. The amendments have all tended to add to the scope of the board's work and to remove it entirely from political influence.

All county and private institutions where insane are kept, and all homes for friendless children are now subject to inspection, and the board is given power to prescribe rules and regulations governing the same. If for any reason the institutions cannot or do not comply with the requirements, the inmates are transferred to a county or State institution where conditions are satisfactory. There can be no question but that great good has been accomplished by the present method of management, and it is but natural that this should be so. Under the old law each institution (except the penitentiaries) had its board of trustees, which met quarterly or at such times as occasion seemed to require. Each institution made its own purchases according to the ideas of its chief executive officer, many of them locally at retail prices.

Now, these officers meet with the members of the board every three months, read papers, and discuss every topic touching the operation of the institution, treatment and care of the insane, the defective, the unfortunate, and the criminal. The dietary, ventilation, heating, lighting, water supply, disposal of sewage by modern methods, proper provision for isolating contagious and infectious diseases, sanitation in general, fire protection, drilling employees and inmates to use the apparatus and means of escape provided, etc., these and all matters looking to the welfare and comfort of the State's wards are freely discussed, and upon these exchanges of ideas many excellent regulations are based, and great improvement in the care of the inmates has been accomplished. Estimates from each institution are submitted quarterly, covering their entire requirements for the coming three months, which are passed upon by the board and the items which are approved are then scheduled under proper trade heads and sent to dealers in the various lines. There are about one hundred classifications, and in many cases these are sent directly to the manufacturer or producer.

Bids on these commodities, and samples where required, are received at the office of the board at the time of these conferences, so that the superin-

¹ Contributed by F. S. Treat, secretary Iowa State Board of Control of State Institutions, Des Moines, Iowa.

tendents have an opportunity to make a thorough inspection and make their recommendations to the committee which is to analyze the bids and make the final awards. This method practically insures to all institutions, whether large or small, the advantage of buying in large quantities, affords a uniformity of quality, and the assurance that the board will require all specifications to be complied with by the bidder, there being no neighborly feeling or local or political influences to overcome. Commodities involving large expenditures are purchased on yearly contract direct from first hands and shipped in carloads. The advantages of the economical features of the new law over the old cannot be questioned, facts and figures showing conclusively that material improvements have been brought about and a large saving made annually.

While the financial improvement may have been uppermost in the minds of the framers of the law, yet the humanitarian side of the problem is just as carefully provided for. One of the strong features of the law provides against political influence. The chief executive officer of each institution is appointed by the board purely upon his fitness for the place, with full power to remove for any cause which to him seems sufficient, and from his action there is no appeal. These officers in turn must select all their assistants and employees on a similar plan and with absolute power of removal for unfitness or incompetency. To emphasize this feature, I quote the law touching the matter of political influence:

"Sec. 35. *Political influence or contribution prohibited.* Any member or officer or employee of the board of control, or any officer or employee of a State institution subject to this board, who, by solicitation or otherwise, exerts his influence directly or indirectly, to induce other officers or employees of the State to adopt his political views or to favor any particular person or candidate for office, or who shall in any manner contribute money or other thing of value to any person for election purposes, shall be removed from his office or position by the proper authorities."

"Sec. 3. *Solicitation of contributions for political purposes a misdemeanor.* Any person who demands or solicits, from any member, employee, or officer of the Board of Control, or from any officer or employee of any institution subject to this board, a contribution of money or other thing of value, for election purposes, or for the payment of the expenses of any political committee or organization, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and punished accordingly."

The advantages arising in the management of the institution when protected by such stringent measures as that quoted must be apparent. Under the old system, however good the intentions of the superintendent may have been, he was necessarily handicapped by his political friends. An employee was in some cases retained long after his usefulness was a thing of the past, because of political influence brought to bear on the head of the institution, and when finally deposed, his place could be filled by the same influence. This method cannot be conducive to efficient service. It puts a club in the hands of the employee and very seriously handicaps the executive officer. Under the present law, a grading system is established and promotions made for efficient service. Every employee feels that retaining his place, and making advance-

ment, depends solely upon his own efforts, and that the superintendent is in full command of the situation with absolute authority of dismissal if he proves unfit or unworthy of his position. He knows that there is no appeal, that his "backing" counts for nothing, and that his chances for securing a position in any other Iowa institution are very meagre.

This system appeals to the kind of men and women needed to conduct institutions for the unfortunate, and deters from undertaking the work those who are not fitted for it. The result is a marked improvement in the medical staff and attendants, in the dietary and clothing, and in the general condition of the institutions, while the inmates have more privileges, more freedom, more out-door life than ever before, with mechanical restraint practically abolished. The same rule as to political influence applies to the office force of the board, and when I say that neither the politics nor the religion of an applicant is questioned, and that no person can hold a position under the board who does not faithfully perform his duties, I speak from personal experience and observation. The law contemplates that the members of the Board of Control shall give their undivided attention to the duties of the office, and the amount of work constantly before them makes this necessary without such provision. Some member must visit each hospital once each month, inspect every department and every ward, see the patients, and give them an opportunity to converse with him privately. An inmate of any institution may correspond with the board at any time without having the correspondence censored by the institution authorities, the object being to remove the possibility of ill treatment without means of communicating with the outside world. Twice each year all institutions are visited and thoroughly inspected by the board in a body, four or five weeks being consumed in each tour. An architect is constantly employed supervising improvements, making plans and specifications for betterments for which the legislature has made provision, and assisting the board in preparing estimates for the consideration of the law makers, covering future improvements. The board has on file plans of each institution, showing the location of buildings, roads, water-mains, and sewers, as well as blue prints and specifications of the buildings, and being in constant correspondence with every institution, all of which can be communicated with readily by telephone, is always in position to act quickly and intelligently on any matter that may come up.

Accounts are so kept that not only is the financial condition of each institution known, but the exact amount of any commodity purchased can be told by the books in the board's office. All goods purchased and the products of the 6000 acres of agricultural land owned by the institutions are placed in the custody of storekeepers who are under bonds and who disburse in quantities as required for immediate use, on the written requisition of the chief executive officer only. Inventories are taken quarterly and the stock checked by the head accountant semi-annually. In short, the whole economic scheme is on the plan of a large mercantile enterprise, the institutions occupying the relative positions of branch houses. In conclusion, I quote from the biennial message of Governor Cummins, delivered in joint session of the Legislature, January 12, 1904: "The work of the Board of Control still vindi-

cates the wisdom of the law creating it, and still commands the confidence of the people. It would be idle for me to attempt a review of its report in the limited time which I may consume. I can only give it my unqualified recommendation, and express my belief that a comparison of the condition of the institutions under its management as they now are, with their condition at the time the change was made, will gratify every disciple of economy and every lover of humanity."

Prison Commission, New York State.—The Ninth Annual Report of the New York State Commission of Prisons, which has just appeared, shows that during the year 102,581 admissions have been made to the prisons, penitentiaries, and reformatories throughout the State, while in many cases, embarrassed by inadequate equipment, the State prisons have shown intelligent and commendable management. The abolition of the lock-step and the substitution of the military step have proved most satisfactory, as has also the fact that practically all the prisoners able to work have had employment. The report again recommends that the prisons be provided with modern sanitary cells, pointing out that the State has no right to deprive its prisoners of health, and thus incapacitate them for honest work when they leave prison. It is also recommended that an amendment be made to the Parole Law giving the Board of Parole authority to release additional classes of prisoners, since, if convicts are to be benefited by their imprisonment, parole before final discharge is almost indispensable. During the past year, of 216 prisoners paroled from State prisons, only 12 were returned for violation of parole. Elmira Reformatory has been at all times crowded, showing the increasing esteem in which its methods are held.

The management of most of the jails, says the report, cannot be commended. Two glaring evils exist, namely idleness and the commingling of prisoners in the common corridors. The law forbidding such commingling has been disregarded by most of the jail officials, primarily because of the unsanitary conditions of individual cells. During recent years, however, many counties have built new and modern jails, and the necessity of allowing prisoners to spend their days in the corridor no longer exists. The commingling in the jails of prisoners awaiting trial is a great evil, bringing together as it does dangerous and desperate criminals and first offenders. The latter if kept from association with hardened criminals will not become degraded. To allow these different classes to associate, converts the jail into a school for instruction in crime and increases the criminal population. The State law requires sanitary jails with facilities for classification and separation. While some counties employ their convicts in road construction or stone breaking, in very many others the prisoners are absolutely without employment. The Commission points out that the management of a county jail is a matter of concern to the whole State. Misdemeanants who this year have been convicted and supported at the expense of the county, are quite likely next year to become inmates of State prisons unless improvement be made in the treatment of county prisoners.

A change in the method of treating drunkenness is advocated. Men who

are victims of the drink habit are not strictly criminals, and the constant conviction and reconviction of such offenders to jail tends to degrade the men, to cause suffering to their families, and to put a great burden of expense upon the tax-payers. Habitual drunkenness arises largely from mental weakness, and its treatment should partake of the characteristics which the State has thought wise to use in other cases of mental aberration. The report again calls the attention of the legislature to the great need of a reformatory for boys between 18 and 25 years of age, convicted of offences not grave enough to warrant sending them to Elmira.

Department of Charities, New York City.—The report of the Department of Public Charities of the city of New York for the year 1902 is unquestionably one of the most valuable and significant that have appeared during the year, not the less so from the fact that it is the first report of the Department since 1893. The work which Commissioner Folks has inaugurated will stand as one of the best achievements of New York's two years of reform, and it has set a high standard by which the incoming administration must inevitably be judged. Every division of the department has been thoroughly overhauled in a spirit at once liberal and economical. The budget for salaries, as fixed October, 1901, was revised in April, 1902, at a saving of \$25,000, showing a dismissal of unnecessary help, while at the same time the salaries of valuable officers were raised. Vast improvements have been made in the equipment in all divisions of the department, the hospitals have been supplied with new and necessary apparatus, additional buildings have been erected to prevent overcrowding, and more wholesome and abundant food and clothing have been supplied to inmates of city institutions.

On January 1, 1902, there was no hospital set apart for consumptives, and tuberculosis patients were distributed among the other hospitals, where they were, in many cases, in the same wards with other patients. During Mr. Folks's administration the vacant buildings on Blackwell's Island, formerly occupied by a State Hospital for Insane, have been fitted up as a hospital for consumptives, with facilities for abundant air and sunshine, a specially arranged dietary and all sanitary precautions. The results have been highly satisfactory. Phthisis patients have shown marvellous gains, even very advanced cases improving under treatment, while a most serious danger has been removed from the inmates of other city hospitals. An expert dietitian has been employed to make a study of the supplying, cooking, and serving of food at large institutions, in order that a greater variety and more nutritious quality of food may be furnished to city wards without increased expense.

In reading the report one is constantly impressed with the effort made to co-ordinate and classify all the institutions in the department, so that there shall be no duplication of effort or overlapping. For instance, the Almshouse on Blackwell's Island and the Richmond County Almshouse on Staten Island were formerly two separate institutions. The latter has a large farm connected with it, and by transferring to Staten Island able-bodied paupers from Blackwell's Island, it has been found possible to work the farm so profitably that it can supply vegetables for both institutions. The helpless paupers from

both Manhattan and Richmond Boroughs are placed on Blackwell's Island. The two institutions are thus made to supplement each other. The same principle is seen in the reorganization of the institution on Randall's Island, so that it is distinctly understood which children shall be assigned to the Infants' Hospital, the Children's Hospital, and the School for Feeble-Minded respectively. Formerly the line of demarcation had never been clearly established and duplication of effort resulted. The Bureau of Dependent Children, formerly a dependency of the Out-Door Poor Department, has been organized as a separate bureau. A list of children who had been indentured by the department since 1884 was made and a system of visiting and supervising them inaugurated, this part of the work having been largely neglected in the past. The rules of the State Board of Charities have for several years required an annual re-acceptance of each child supported in a private institution at public expense, but it was found that many children in Brooklyn were being thus supported, the circumstances of whose parents had never been investigated since the original commitment. Steps to remedy this were at once taken, and by the end of 1902 all children in Brooklyn and Queens (over 4000 in number) had been investigated in compliance with the rules of the State Board of Charities, with the result of relieving the city of a very considerable number of children.

An interesting and significant fact is brought out in regard to the desertion or alleged desertion of fathers. It appears that for several years such desertion had been increasing to an alarming extent. Under Mr. Folks a plan was devised for dealing more effectively with this evil. It was ascertained that "in many cases the desertion was simply a prearranged plan between the husband and wife by which the husband would disappear from the neighborhood for a short time, only to return as soon as the children had safely been placed under the care of the city; in many instances the husband continued meanwhile to send money regularly at unusual hours. A special list of families, in which the husband was reported as having deserted, was started in the Bureau of Dependent Children in June, 1902, and these families were visited from time to time at hours at which a visit would not naturally be expected—in the early evening or on Sundays or holidays. The result has been that in numerous cases the head of the family, who had been reported as having deserted and as having been absent for many weeks, was found by his own fireside, with every appearance of having been there regularly and of enjoying the additional luxuries made possible by escaping the burden of supporting his children. Out of 127 cases of desertion under observation from June to the end of the year, husbands were found in 43 cases.

On October 1, 1902, the Bureau of Dependent Children was instructed to require parents of children committed as public charges, if able to pay for their children in part, to enter into an agreement to make such part payment. During the quarter ending December 31, 1902, the sum of \$2142.32 was collected from parents. Children whose parents are able to pay for their entire support in institutions are not to be committed by this department. It will thus be seen that the department is doing all in its power to put

responsibility for children where it should rest, namely with the parents. The department places the larger number of its children in private institutions at public expense. Foundlings and motherless infants, however, are placed at board in private families through a joint committee of the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor and the State Charities Aid Association. Of 125 such infants in care during the year, only 10, or 8 per cent. died,—a death-rate which shows the great value of family life for the baby as against institution life.

The following table represents the work of the Bureau of Dependent Children for the year:

Number of children proposed for commitment..... 6423

Of these 6423 children there were:

Approved for commitment indefinitely	1124
Approved for temporary commitment	924
Approved for commitment (parent to pay part of ex- pense incurred)	123
Disapproved unconditionally	4252

The 4252 children disapproved unconditionally were disapproved for the following reasons:

Non-residents	402
Immigrants	162
Unknown at address given	179
Insufficient information	211
Able to be paid for in full and whose parents were re- ferred to institutions	316
Able to be supported at home	2031
Referred to private charities	776
Referred to court; parent to be placed under order to pay	175

It will be seen from the above that the department disapproved unconditionally over 69 per cent. of all children proposed for commitment, and of these, 48 per cent. were able to be supported at home. In other words, by thorough expert investigation, it has saved the city the expense of supporting 4252 children, while at the same time it has placed the responsibility of that support where it ought in each case to rest. It is in such ways that an intelligent and honest administration can save money for the city while it serves in the most far-reaching manner those persons who come within its influence.

Condition of Children in Great Britain.—The *London Daily Telegraph* draws attention to the surprising facts contained in the Scottish census report of 1903, in relation to child-labor. It appears that in every 100 males between eleven and twelve years of age 34.92 are at work, and in every 100 females

of the same years 65.10 are at work. The majority of these children are employed in the cotton, flax, and hemp industries.

In a subsequent issue the *Telegraph* refers to a meeting of the London Charity Organization Society, at which a paper was read by Dr. Edmund Cantley. Dr. Cantley in speaking of the appalling infant mortality due to ignorant and careless mothers, said that from 1891 to 1900 there had been an average of 160 deaths under twelve months out of every 1000 children born in London. Nearly all of these deaths were due to bad feeding, and Dr. Cantley asserted that the physique of the nation varied directly as its food supply during infancy and childhood. He also said that cases where infants were insured or were "out at nurse," were looked upon with grave suspicion by hospital physicians, and he advocated a law placing every "nurse-child" under a system of registration and inspection. He also urged, in order to deal with the ignorance of mothers, that when a birth was registered a paper of instructions on methods of rearing should be handed to the parents, that the milk supply should be under close municipal inspection, and that there should be co-operation between charitable agencies in educating mothers and visiting them in their own homes.

Le Musée Social of Paris, of recent date, has some interesting remarks on the value of garden and farm work as a method of relief for the dependent or semi-dependent classes. Such relief work consists in putting at the disposal of a poor family, either gratuitously or for a nominal sum, a small garden where they can cultivate such fruits and vegetables as they need, where the husband may find recreation and rest from the toil of the workshop, and where the children may play, shielded from the evils of the streets. Work and interest in such a little garden makes for a man's physical and moral health, keeping him after working hours from saloons, which have heretofore tempted him to stay away from a cramped and dirty home. With an interest in his garden once aroused, a man is ambitious to extend it and to procure better tools, and this encourages him to wise economy. A number of philanthropic persons in France are taking an active interest in promoting this work of providing the poor with little gardens, and many charitable organizations are taking the matter up, so that there are to-day 6167 such gardens, of which 45,169 persons have the benefit.

The Success of an Indiana Experiment.²—In Indiana the counties are divided into townships, the chief official of which is the township trustee. Outside of cities and incorporated towns he is the executive officer. He has charge of the roads, schools, ditches, and elections. He is *ex officio* the overseer of the poor. As the last-named official, his authority extends over all the township including the cities and towns. He alone could determine who should receive official aid, or could place a person in the county poor asylum (infirmiry). He was the first and sole authority in determining whether a child should be a public dependent. All such authority is his still, subject, however, to certain checks and limitations.

For many years succeeding officers as overseers of the poor exercised

² Contributed by Amos W. Butler.

their authority with practically no supervision. It was inevitable that abuses should rise. The giving of relief became a business matter. The tax-payer paid his taxes and sent all beggars to the trustee. Often the trustee was sent to persons who were reported to be in need that he as the public's almoner might help them. Pauperism was encouraged and grew to great proportions. Ten years ago an effort was made to learn the facts, but it was found to be impossible to tell the number of persons aided or the value of the official relief given. The legislature of 1895 passed a law requiring reports to the County Auditor and the Board of State Charities. These show the name, color, age, and sex of the person aided; the age and sex of the members of the family, who shared in the relief given, and why help was necessary. They also gave the date, kind of relief, and its value. It was made illegal to pay any money out of the county treasury for out-door poor relief until these reports were filed. From the records obtained in 1895, it was shown that the official relief given that year, including medical assistance, amounted to \$630,168.79. The county had paid all the expense of official out-door relief. There was little restriction upon this. It could almost be said, to him that asked it was given. The information gathered from these reports was such that the legislature at its next biennial session provided that each township should pay for its own poor. This was done by levying a tax against all the property in the township to reimburse the county for the money advanced. Thus the trustee was made responsible directly to his own constituents.

The success of these laws led the next legislature, in 1899, to enact into statutes certain charity organization principles. These required investigation on the part of the trustee, registration of persons helped, co-operation with other charitable agencies, effort to secure the needed assistance from friends and relatives or to assist in obtaining employment if the applicant was able to work. They prohibited giving relief to able-bodied non-residents, and the sending of transients from place to place. Nowhere else have the essential principles of charity organization been accepted by a State and adopted as a part of its fundamental law to such an extent.

In 1901 all of the poor relief laws were codified. In brief, they were working out of recognized principles, in a practical way, through a series of years to suit observed conditions. The results have been exceedingly gratifying. A large part of the overseers of the poor themselves approved of the laws and entered heartily into the effort to secure satisfactory results under them. Each year from the enactment of the first, saw some measure of improvement, and in 1900 the total official out-door relief, including medical aid, was reduced to \$209,956.22, being a decrease of \$420,215.57 in six years. Succeeding years have shown some increase in this amount, but this is chiefly attributed to two causes: one, the succession of an entire new force of township trustees to office; the other, the increased relief required on account of smallpox and other contagious diseases. The total value of this relief for the year ending December 31, 1902, was \$266,876.96. The number of persons who shared in it was 48,849, which is approximately half of those who were helped when the first of the laws went into operation.

The theory of the law is that the trustees, as overseers of the poor, shall administer such temporary relief as is necessary to the poor in their townships and that those who require permanent relief shall be cared for in the county poor asylum. Many of the persons helped by the overseers of the poor were shown to be given practically permanent relief. Numbers of these were given the opportunity to go to the poor asylums. In most cases few availed themselves of the offer. Generally they showed that they were able to make their own way or could get along with the assistance afforded them by relatives or friends. The township trustee of Fairfield township, Tippecanoe County, had on his books the names of sixty-five persons who were considered as regular dependents. Early in March a year ago, he thought to test the law, and told them the only thing he could do was to care for them at the poor asylum. There were but two old women who consented to go. Counting these, forty were dropped from the list that summer and have proved that they can get along without the help of the trustee since that time. The prevailing popular opinion after the new laws were passed, was that the poor asylums (infirmaries) of the State would be filled to overflowing, but the fact is that with the decrease of out-door poor relief, there has also been a decrease every year in the population of the poor asylums.

Not only have these laws proved valuable for the reduction in the number aided and in the value of aid given, but in the reduction and prevention of pauperism, by reason of the required investigation and more careful oversight. The poor were never so well looked after as they are now. From the reports made by the overseers of the poor some interesting facts are brought to light. While the poor asylum population shows a proportion of two men to one woman, it is to be observed that the township trustee aids a larger number of females than males. Last year there were of the former 25,611, and of the latter 23,238.

One of the abuses of the old system was the giving of cash by trustees to applicants for aid. In Wayne township, Allen County, which was the greatest offender, the total relief given during the year ending August 31, 1898, was \$9931.28, of which \$6340.61 was cash. For the entire year ending December 31, 1903, the amount of aid given was \$5291.19, of which \$176.50 was cash. It can be said that the giving of cash is practically stopped. The reports of the overseers of the poor show among other interesting facts the reasons for asking relief. One of the notable causes given is the desertion of families by parents. The number of such cases reported by the overseers of the poor during the year ending December 31, 1902, was 262. From this fact and others, which are being studied from the reports received, other steps in legislation for poor relief will be asked. Taken altogether, the enactment of this series of laws and the results accomplished under them in the State of Indiana, have been notable, and with them and the manner of their enforcement the people of the State are greatly pleased.

The Charity Entertainment Promoter.³—The greater part of the charity of any American city is the result of private initiative, and is supported by

³ Contributed by Ernest P. Bicknell, Chicago, Ill.

voluntary gifts. The difficulty which organized charities experience in obtaining from private givers the sums necessary to their proper maintenance is painfully familiar, both to those charged with the collection and to those who are the recipients of almost constant appeals for contributions. The wearing burden of responsibility on the one hand, the annoyance to the giver on the other, and the number of necessary charities which drag out a half-starved existence, are sufficient to justify a searching inquiry into the entire subject of our systems of charity, their maintenance and management, and their relation to the public. This note has no such ambitious purpose, but will be confined to a brief reference to one of many causes for the conditions mentioned. It has to do with the operations of the person who, for want of a better title, may be called the "Professional Promoter of Charity Entertainments." This promoter, carrying into the field of charity the methods learned in other fields, comes to a reputable but weak and struggling charity, and proposes to give an entertainment for its benefit. The managers of the charity are tired and discouraged. Their treasury is empty. The promoter is inspiring, breezy, sympathetic, persuasive, and resourceful. An agreement is made, drawn up in contract form, duly signed, and becomes binding. I have had an opportunity to learn the terms of a number of such contracts. In several the promoter paid the charity a lump sum in cash before the date of the entertainment, the charity thereafter having no interest in the affair, no knowledge of how it was conducted and no check whatever upon the use made of its name by the ticket-sellers employed by the promoter to canvass the community. In one instance a promoter paid a charity \$250 cash when the contract was signed. This discharged the entire obligation of the promoter to the charity and left her a clear field of operation with the right to use the name of the charity at will. She fixed the date of her entertainment three months in the future and set a trained staff of five attractive young women at selling tickets. The capacity of the hall which was engaged was not considered a limitation upon the number of tickets to be sold. The ticket-sellers said little about the entertainment, and neither sellers nor buyers, as a rule, made any pretence that the transaction involved any desire or intention of making use of the tickets. The actual cost of board and incidental expenses for the promoter and her assistants during the three months of this campaign, together with hall rental and entertainer's fee, was not less than \$750, to say nothing of clothing or promoter's profits. It is a safe estimate that the badgered and busy charitable people gave at least \$1000 in the name of charity in order that the society which had sold its name might receive \$250.

In other contracts which have come to my attention, the promoters have worked on a percentage basis. At the date of this writing, tickets are being sold in Chicago by a corps of young women, for a lecture ostensibly in aid of a religious mission of good standing. The entire enterprise is in the hands of a promoter and the contract provides that she shall have 70 per cent. of the gross proceeds from the sale of tickets, the mission to receive 30 per cent. Neither the promoter nor her ticket-sellers have any real interest in the mission, and only such information is given concerning it as will enable them

to dwell pathetically upon its needs. The citizen is importuned to buy tickets, not singly, but in bunches, and not because of the merits of the entertainment, but because of the great need and the merits of the mission.

It were easy to enumerate many other examples of a similar character, but the two mentioned are typical. A considerable number of men and women have adopted the promotion of entertainments in the name of charity as a business, and there is every reason to believe they have found it profitable. The result is, of course, deeply injurious to the cause of charity. Such methods of raising money serve to arouse the distrust of all charity organizations among busy people, who do not take time to discriminate carefully in their giving. There is an all too common tendency on the part of the public to question with sweeping indiscrimination the wisdom or good faith of agencies of charity in general. The fact that the professional promoter exists and thrives will have an effect out of all proportion to its importance, in alienating the moral and financial support of those on whom all private charities must largely depend for their efficiency.

St. Louis Session of Social and Economic Science Section, American Association for the Advancement of Science.⁴—The programme of the Social and Economic Science Section for the American Association for the Advancement of Science, which convened at St. Louis, December 28, 1903, to January 2, 1904, included four sessions, the first of which was given to the Labor Problem, which was the subject of the vice-presidential address by Mr. H. T. Newcomb, and formed the basis of discussion at the opening session.

The second session, on the Economic Aspects of the New Agriculture was devoted to four papers, covering the general subject of Agricultural Economics, by Dr. H. C. Taylor, of Wisconsin University; the "Functions of Forestry in the New Agriculture," by Mr. Thos. H. Sherrard, of the Bureau of Forestry, Department of Agriculture; "Improvement in Farm Management," by Professor W. H. Hays, of the Minnesota State Agricultural Experiment Station; and the "Economic Functions of Live Stock," by Professor Charles F. Curtiss, of Iowa State College. A paper on the "Evolution of Agriculture in the Middle West," by Professor Eugene Davenport, of the Illinois College of Agriculture, was read by title.

A third session was occupied with the status of instruction in social and economic science in schools, colleges, and universities, including the following papers:

High School: W. J. S. Bryan, Principal, St. Louis High School; Colleges: Professor Charles J. Sprague, Knox College, Galesburg, Ill., "The Real Source of Economic Opinion in America;" Normal Schools: Henry W. Thurston, Chicago Normal School, Englewood, Ill.; Discussion by J. H. Scarborough, Warrensburg Normal School, Mo.; Universities: J. E. Hagerty, Ohio State University.

The fourth session included papers by Charles A. Conant, Treasurer, Morton Trust Company, New York, on "Wall Street and the Country;" by Frederick N. Judson, St. Louis, Mo., on "Public Purposes for which Taxa-

⁴ Reported by John Franklin Crowell, secretary of Section of Social and Economic Science.

tion is Justifiable;" by G. H. Shibley, Bureau of Economic Research, Washington, D. C., on "Development of Representative Government;" by Wm. F. Saunders, Business Men's League, St. Louis, on "Services of Commercial Organizations in the Social and Economic Development of Cities;" and by E. Dana Durand, Bureau of Corporations, Washington, D. C., on "Social Significance of Street Railways."